

**First Steps South East  
LPCC Quarterly Meeting  
Cluster J  
November 17, 2023**

- I. Call to Order  
Called to order by Lorien Konetzka, LPCC Vice-Chairperson.
- II. Introductions and Inspirational Story  
Brief introductions were made. Missy Myers of Collaborating for Kids shared an inspirational story about her own child who was once a First Steps participant receiving intervention for a speech issue. Missy's child, now in high school, was recently accepted to the University of Chicago due to her essays (language skills).
- III. Consent Agenda Items  
Consent agenda items reviewed. Ella Boyd motioned to accept the consent agenda including the minutes. Missy Myers moved to second. Approved by consensus.
- IV. Financial Report  
SPOE Financial report handout reviewed by Becky Haymond. The report shows the annual budget and current expenses for the first quarter (July – September). The expenses are on target.
- V. Other Business
  - Cluster Oversight and System Updates
    - Provider Networks –
      - Becky reported that an OT contacted the SPOE with interest in working in early intervention in the region. Becky provided therapy group contact information to the OT.
      - Missy gave an update on Collaborating for Kids (CFK). CFK was looking for a PT because they had a PT who was moving out of the area, but the PT is no longer moving. Missy reports that CFK is pretty well staffed in Cluster J.
    - Training Opportunities –
      - The 2024 Indiana Early Intervention Conference will be held in Bloomington June 13-14. The event will take place in-person, but an option for virtual attendance of some kind will also be offered. Barbara Sanders with the State First Steps office shared that the conference planning committee is currently accepting proposals for session presentations and poster presentations. Becky Haymond shared that two Service Coordinators from Cluster H are on the planning committee to help support efforts to have conference training sessions especially tailored to service coordinators.
      - Barbara Sanders, First Steps Family Engagement Manager with the State First Steps office, shared that she is looking to start a parent group. She has sent out an online survey to First Steps parents seeking parent input. The survey takes 3-4 minutes to complete, and completion is requested by November 27<sup>th</sup>. Barbara put the survey link in today's Zoom meeting chat.
    - Statistics –
      - Referrals, Evaluations, and Initial IFSP counts were reviewed. Referrals numbers for 2023 are on track to meet or exceed the number of referrals received in 2022 by the end of the year. Evaluation numbers for 2023 are also on track to meet or exceed 2022 numbers. There is always a difference between the number of referrals and the number evaluations. Many times families are not interested in pursuing an evaluation at the time of referral, particularly if referral was just a protocol by the Department of Child Services with no developmental concerns submitted on the referral form.
    - Staffing Update – The SPOE has welcomed Natalia Alvarado as another bi-lingual Service Coordinator. The SPOE is currently fully staffed.

- EI Hub – No new updates.
- Old Business
  - Outreach Opportunities – Anne Dolan, local LPCC Coordinator, thanked the group for the idea shared at the last meeting to look into events organized by Connections of Indiana case management. There was a regional Disability Fair in Richmond this fall that our First Steps office participated in.
- New Business
  - LPCC Meeting Dates 2024 – Anne Dolan opened up discussion about setting the LPCC meeting schedule for 2024. The past schedule has been to meet quarterly on the third Friday of the second month of each quarter. Meetings have all been virtual since the pandemic in 2020. Those present today were in agreement to continue with the same schedule for 2024.
  - Indiana Family to Family – Amy Griffin from Indiana Family to Family gave a presentation to the LPCC group today about the organization and its support services and resource navigation information for families of children with special health needs and disabilities. The organization is also able to provide training to organizations and professionals who serve families regarding Family to Family and community resource navigation.
  - INTECA Study – Becky Haymond shared that our local SPOE office was asked to participate in a national study being conducted by INTECA (Innovative Technology for Early Childhood Assessment). The study is gathering experiences of those using who are doing remote assessments. The SPOE arranged for the INTECA group to interview some parents, some assessment team members, and some SPOE staff. The INTECA group told Becky that our SPOE was innovative by having a device loaner program.
  - Hanover College PT & OT Graduate Programs – Becky shared information received regarding the launch of PT & OT graduate programs at Hanover College in 2024. Hanover reached out to Becky to seek opportunities for practical experiences for their students within the students’ hometowns. This could be an opportunity for the therapy networks in our region to host students to provide experience working in early intervention and build a pipeline of future First Steps therapists. The graduate program will also be seeking capstone project opportunities for students.

## VI. Announcements and Updates

- BISC Project (Building Interactive Social Communication) – Addison McGeary, BISC Project Associate, introduced the BISC Research Study team. The team provided an overview of the BISC study and is seeking participation from First Steps early intervention providers. Participating providers and the families they serve will get a stipend payment. Today’s meeting handouts include a flyer promoting BISC participation for providers. Also, the State First Steps office has endorsed training credentialing hours for participating providers.
- Maternal and Child Health Survey – The state Department of Health is seeking family input via an online survey to assist with strategic planning. Please share the survey link with interested families: <http://bit.ly/3tTKSvJ>
- Advocacy around Learning to Read Curriculum – Funmi Ige-Wright highlighted an emerging issue related to state reading curriculum teaching standards and students with Down Syndrome. Across the state, educators are being advised that cuing should not be used with the new curriculum method, however, students with Down Syndrome would benefit from verbal cuing for auditory learning.
- Advocacy around Medicaid Redetermination – Ella Boyd shared that the ARC is hearing about difficulties families are experiencing in completing Medicaid redetermination. Professionals can support families by sharing information about ways families can check that the Medicaid office has current contact info for the family for receiving redetermination requests and information. There are also a variety of organizations that are able to assist families complete the redetermination process and seek other kinds of insurance if needed.
- The next regularly scheduled LPCC Meeting for Cluster J is Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

## VII. Adjournment

Thank you to Lorien Konetzka for leading today's meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Attendees:

Addison McGeary	IU BISC Study (Behavior Interventions for Social Communication)
Anne Dolan	First Steps South East, LPCC Coordinator
Amy Griffin	Indiana Family to Family
Audery Burgess	First Steps South East, Service Coordinator
Barbara Sanders	First Steps Family Engagement Manager, FSSA
Becky Haymond	First Steps South East, Program Director
Deb Miller	Accord Therapy
Elaine Studdard	Pediplay
Ella Boyd	Arc of Indiana
Funmi Ige-Wright	Parent
Heather Campbell	CASY Child Care Resource and Referral
Inga Moore	Greensburg Community Schools
Janell Foley	First Steps South East, Lead Service Coordinator
Jill Turner	Kings Daughters Hospital
Katherine Horn	IU BISC Study (Behavior Interventions for Social Communication)
Lorien Konetzka	Outward Bound
Lucy Zook	IU BISC Study (Behavior Interventions for Social Communication)
Maggie Matthews	First Steps South East, Service Coordinator
Mandy Hardin-Morton	Major Hospital
Marissa Horvath	KORT Kids
Mikayla Cougill	First Steps South East, Office Manager
Missy Myers	Collaborating For Kids
Molly Cleek	Kids Only, Inc.
Natalia Alvarado	First Steps South East, Service Coordinator
Tillie Allgood	South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) Head Start
Whitney Austin	First Steps South East, SPOE Supervisor